

REMARKS:

REMARKS REGARDING CLAIMS AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1-4, 10, 11 and 13 have been canceled, without prejudice, in order to expedite the allowance of other claims. Claims 7 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims, and as 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶4 states, this amendment does not change the scope of protection sought. *See* 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶4 (“A claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.”). Therefore, the amendments to claims 7 and 12 do not in any manner narrow the scope of the claimed subject matter.

IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION:

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-4, 10, 11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobson Jr., U.S. Patent No. 5,783,527 (“the Dobson reference”).

Applicants have canceled these claims without prejudice in order to put this application into condition for immediate allowance. In no manner, should this cancellation be construed as an acquiescence of the Examiner’s bases for rejection. Applicants reserve any and all rights to prosecute these claims further in a continuation application.

EXAMINER’S OBJECTION:

Claims 7, 8, 12 and 15 have been objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner has indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claims 7 and 12 to include such limitations, thus, Applicants believe that both claims as well as claims 8 and 15 are now in condition for allowance. Furthermore, 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶4 states that these amendments to claims 7 and 12 do not change the scope of protection sought. See 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶4 (“A claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.”) Therefore, the amendments to claims 7 and 12 do not in any manner narrow the scope of the claimed subject matter.

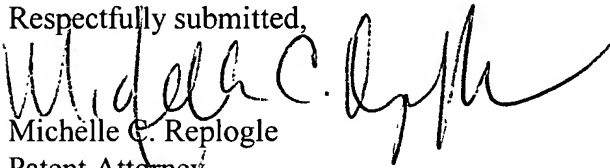
Thus, Applicants’ believe that claims 7, 8, 12 and 15 are now in condition for allowance along with claims 5, 6 and 14 which the Examiner indicated in the last Office Action are allowable over the art of record.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2508, referencing Order No. 11836.0677.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,



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